DC™

1
FIRST ISSUE OF SIX
SEP '08

GIFFEN
FLEMING
MILGROM

AMBUSH BUG

YEAR NONE

™

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AMBUSH BUG YEAR NONE™

1 FIRST ISSUE OF SIX SEP '08

GIFFEN
FLEMING
MILGROM

COO...AT CHEEKS THE TOY WONDER!

YOU LIKE ME!

YOU RILLY RILLY RILLY RILLY RILLY LIKE ME!

TRY ON FOR SIZE... ARGH!YLE THE EVIL SOCK!

PUZZLE OVER... THE HEPCAT KNOWN AS GO-GO CHEX!

SIX ISSUE MINI-SERIES

GET YOUR FANBOY BUTT KICKED...BY BATGIRL!

GIFFEN/MILGROM

OPENLY DEFY... CONTINUITY COP JONNI DC!

BONUS!

MEET "YOOPIE SEE"... THE LITTLE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION WHO COULD!

I KNOW I CAN, I KNOW I CAN...

DCCOMICS.COM

SOMEWHERE IN THE FOURTH WORLD.

ONE SECOND TILL NOW.

GIVE OR TAKE.

THE SOURCE WALL.

A PLOT DEVICE.

HEY, YOU!

HUH-?

WHICH ~~CRAPPY~~ COMIC ~~BOOK~~ AM I IN TODAY? I LOOK LIKE A SLAB OF PARMESAN CHEESE! WHEN JACK KIRBY DREW ME, I ~~WAS~~ ALL SLEEK AND SHIMMERING, AND MY WORDS WERE WRITTEN BY A GLITTERING GLOVE!

THAT ~~DAMN~~ JACKSON ~~FIVE KID~~ STOLE MY GLOVE AND MADE A FORTUNE WITH IT! EVERYBODY ALWAYS RIPS OFF JACK! I'D ~~GIVE~~ EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM A GOOD BUTT-KICKING IF I WASN'T INERT!

OF COURSE, I DO ENGAGE ~~IN MY~~ SHARE OF DUST-UPS! LAST WEEK BIG BARDA ATTACKED ME JUST BECAUSE I MENTIONED HER LITTLE ~~MOUSTACHE~~! SHE BIT OFF A PIECE OF MY CORNICE, BUT I CHIPPED HER TOOTH, SO WE CALLED IT A DRAW!

AND YOU ~~WANT TO TACK~~ BIG? DARKSEID HIMSELF HAS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ~~BREACH~~ MY RAMPARTS ON ~~AT LEAST FOUR~~ SEPARATE OCCASIONS! SAYS HE WANTS TO "TAP MY MYSTERIES"

HEY, LENNY, DO YA THINK THE BOSS REALLY TRIED TO MAKE IT WITH THAT *WALL*?

HAVE YOU SEEN THE "SEID"S *FACE*?

FOR ALL WE KNOW, THEY COULD BE *COUSINS!*

CHICAGO.

25 OR 6 TO 4.

BOOOOM

WHEN THE INTRUDER ENTERED, I PUT IN AN EMERGENCY CALL FOR BACKUP.

I WAS TOLD THAT THIS STORY RUNS A FULL 22 PAGES, SO THERE IS NO BACKUP!

THIS NEVER WOULD'VE HAPPENED IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

JONNI DC.

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER.

G-G-G-G-G-

I TRY TO LEAVE BEHIND A LEGIBLE WORD BALLOON, BUT IT'S NO USE.

THEN I REMEMBER THAT COMICS ARE PRIMARILY A VISUAL MEDIUM.

LUCKILY, THE DC UNIVERSE IS CHOCK-FULL OF DETECTIVES TRAINED TO SPOT FORENSIC CLUES.

UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY ONE OF THEM KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT OLD COMIC BOOKS!

AMBUSH BUG YEAR NONE

METROPOLIS METRO-MART.

THIRTY MINUTES UNTIL CLOSING.

HE'S JUST LINES ON PAPER.

DO YOU HAVE ANY MAJOR APPLIANCES THAT *DON'T* COME WITH A DEAD BODY IN IT?

IT'S A STANDARD FEATURE.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR *COMPACT FRIDGE WITH BUILT-IN PYGMY?*

FEMALE CHARACTERS ARE BEING KILLED IN GREAT NUMBERS ACROSS THE DC UNIVERSE!

THERE'S A SICK GAME BEING PLAYED HERE...

...A GAME THAT'S CAUSING MANY OF THE BEREFT MALE CHARACTERS TO CRY OUT:

"HEY, YOU SANK MY BATTLE-AX!"

CHICAGO.

DOES ANYBODY REALLY CARE WHAT TIME IT IS?

OFFICE OF THE CORONER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD TO TRAVEL HALFWAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY, JUST SO FLEM COULD CRACK A COUPLE OF *CHICAGO JOKES!*

WE WERE TOLD YOU COULD IDENTIFY THE VICTIM'S BODY.

DIDN'T SHE HAVE ANY *FAMILY?*

YES, BUT THEY WERE ALL *WOMEN.*

DEAD.

DEAD.

DEAD.

DEAD.

ARE *THOSE* THEM STACKED UP OVER THERE?

DUNNO. WE HAVEN'T HAD THE TIME TO *IDENTIFY* THAT TRUCKLOAD YET!

WELL, HERE SHE *IS!*

JONNI DC?

HARD TO SAY.

IT'S BEEN ALMOST FIFTEEN YEARS...

I'LL HAVE TO *GET BACK* TO YOU ON THAT, DOC!

POP!

THIS WASN'T THE JONNI DC I REMEMBERED WITH HER CLASSIC "DC BULLET" TORSO...

...THIS WAS THE "NEW AND IMPROVED" JONNI...

...WEARING THAT REVAMPED DC BULLET WITH THE SWIRLING STAR THAT ALWAYS MAKES ME NAUSEOUS!

UURRRPP!

TRY STARING AT IT YOURSELF AND SEE IF YOU DON'T GET A LITTLE DIZZY!

I SWEAR THAT STAR IS MOVING. I JUST CAN'T GET ADJUSTED TO THIS NEW DC UNIVERSE!

MY THOUGHT BALLOONS USED TO BE ALL WHITE AND FLUFFY, AND NOW THEY'RE BLUE AND RECTANGULAR!!

MY ONE ANCHOR IN THIS MAD WORLD IS MY LITTLE CHEEKS!

LOOK AT HIM!

SIGH!

ALWAYS FALLING ASLEEP AT THE COMPUTER IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS HOMEWORK!

IT'S OKAY, KIDDO.

DADDY WILL FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK FOR YOU!

HE'S SO CUTE.

HE NEVER EVEN SNORES!

CHEEKS THE TOY WONDER.

A DRAWING OF A DOLL.

IT SURE IS TOO BAD ABOUT JONNI!

SHE WAS A REAL PAIN IN THE BUTT, BUT SHE KEPT THE DC UNIVERSE FROM FALLING APART!

JONNI DC WAS ONCE THE CONTINUITY COP WHO ENSURED THAT EVERYTHING MADE SENSE IN THE COMICS.

WAIT A MINUTE! MY BLUE THOUGHT RECTANGLE IS *ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!*

JONNI DEVOTED HER *ENTIRE LIFE* TO MAKING SURE THAT THINGS MADE SENSE...

...AND YET HER OWN DEATH WAS *SENSELESS!*

THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TELEPORT AROUND AND DUMP THIS IN THE LAP OF SOMEBODY WHO GIVES A DAMN!

POP!

SUPES ISN'T HOME, AND HIS RECEPTIONIST SEEMS TO BE ON HER BREAK.

BATS ISN'T AROUND, EITHER.

POP!

I LOWER HIS SWIVEL CHAIR BY SIX INCHES, AS USUAL.

DON'T TELL HIM IT WAS ME.

JLA HQ IS DESERTED, TOO.

POP!

THERE MUST BE A *COMPANY-WIDE CROSSOVER* GOING ON TODAY.

I RAID THE FRIDGE.

I ALMOST STOP AT TEEN TITANS HQ...

...BUT I'VE BEEN NAUSEATED ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL WITH ALL THAT ACNE!

SO I GUESS IT'S ALL UP TO *ME!*

TYPICAL!

I DIDN'T EVEN *LIKE* JONNI DC, AND NOW I'VE GOTTA SOLVE HER MURDER!

I'M USED TO BEING CLUELESS, BUT THIS IS *RIDICULOUS!!*

THEN MY LEFT NIPPLE BEGINS TO TINGLE, WHICH EITHER MEANS THAT MY "BUG SENSE" IS ALERTING ME TO IMMINENT DANGER...

...OR ELSE MY CELL PHONE IS VIBRATING.

YUP, GOT A CALL.

BUG? IT'S JEAN LORING.

I'M RETURNING YOUR CALL. WHAT'S UP?

I'M REALLY BUSY, BUG. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

OH, JEAN! YEAH, I FORGOT I CALLED YOU, WHAT WITH THE GRUESOME MURDERS AND WHATNOT!

UH, I JUST WONDERED WHAT YOU'RE WEARING TO RALPH'S SURPRISE PARTY TONIGHT?

TAP TAP TAP

...SURPRISE PARTY?

YEAH, I WANTED TO AVOID ANOTHER FASHION FIASCO LIKE THAT TIME WE BOTH SPORTED THE SAME FROCK...

BUG...RAY AND I ARE DIVORCED. I'M NOT INVITED TO OUR FRIENDS' PARTIES ANYMORE!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I SHOULD'VE REMEMBERED BECAUSE RALPH'S WIFE SUE WAS JUST SAYING HOW SORRY SHE FEELS FOR YOU!

SUE SAID THAT?!

SUE PITIES ALL DIVORCED WOMEN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE--HOW'D SHE PUT IT?--"TOO CAREER-DRIVEN TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF THEIR MEN!"

SHE'S A PEACH!

WHAT ELSE DID SUE DIBNY SAY ABOUT ME??

WHY DON'T WE TALK ABOUT IT AT THE PARTY? YOU COULD GO AS MY DATE!

MAYBE I SHOULD WARN SUE THAT YOU'RE COMING, THOUGH...

DO YOU THINK I SHOULD PUT A FLEA IN HER EAR?

DON'T BOTHER!

I'LL DO IT MYSELF!!

HIGH IN ORBIT OVER THE EASTERN SEABOARD.

THREE MINUTES TILL THE RINSE CYCLE.

THE BUREAU.

IT LOOKS LIKE A CHEST OF DRAWERS.

FUNNY.

LITTLE DOES AMBUSH BUG KNOW THAT HIS *EVERY MOVE* IS BEING MONITORED...

...INTERCEPTED AND SCRUTINIZED BY HIS MOST *INGENIOUS AND RELENTLESS* OPPONENT...

...THE BEING KNOWN AS ARGH!YLE!!

SELL IT, BOSS!

YOUR "PARTYING DAYS" WILL SOON BE OVER, BUG!

WE USED TO "STEP OUT" TOGETHER, BEFORE YOU TURNED YOUR BACK AND LEFT ME FLAT!

WAIT.

YOUR MAGIC SOCK!

I WAS TORN UP ABOUT IT...!

...AND I SOON CAME COMPLETELY UNRAVELED!

MRROOOW

MUST CONSTRUCT METAL MASK...

HIDE...MY DEFORMITY...

AND I'VE BEEN RETELLING THAT *DAMNED ORIGIN* EVER SINCE!!

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS.

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK.

ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST.

Thought Balloons

HOW'S YOU *TRACK ME DOWN,* BUG?

ME... TRACK YOU?

OH, I GET IT-- *BIZARRO* SENT YOU!

HE MOST CERTAINLY *DID NOT!*

WHICH, IN BACKWARDS BIZARRO-SPEAK, MEANS THAT HE *DID!* I UNDERSTAND.

NO, YOU *DON'T* UNDERSTAND!

DAMN, YOU'RE GOOD!

I HAVE TO DO THIS *MY WAY,* BUG!

YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW, AND I'LL KEEP YOU IN THE *RIGHT DIRECTION* IF I CAN.

CECIL SUNBEAM.

FORMER MEMBER OF THE KID GROUP KNOWN AS THE GREEN TEAM.

WE'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM, EITHER.

BUT YOU'LL GET *NOTHING* FROM ME ABOUT HALDEMAN!

HE *KILLED* HIS OWN MOTHER, HE KEEPS HER *MUMMIFIED CORPSE* IN THE FRUIT CELLAR, AND HE'S GOT A *FOOT FETISH...*

...BUT THAT'S *ALL* I'M SAYING ABOUT HALDEMAN!

Robert Loren Fleming 1956-2003

THREE WEEKS LATER.

HALDEMAN WAS BORN WITH A TAIL THAT HAD TO BE *SURGICALLY REMOVED...*

HE CAN GO *THREE MONTHS* WITHOUT A SIP OF WATER, AND HE HAS *TWO GLASS EYES!*

SO...WHAT DOES THIS *HALDEMAN GUY* HAVE TO DO WITH JONNI DC'S MURDER?

NOTHING WHATSOEVER. HE'S MY *STEPFATHER.*

I'M TAKING YOU *RIGHT NOW* TO THE GUY WHO CAN TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

EVER HEAR OF THE RAP MOGUL *HUGEY HUGE?*

HERE HE IS, H.H.!

ABDUL SMITH, ALSO FORMERLY OF THE GREEN TEAM.

WE LOOKED THEM UP ON WOKIPEDIA.

BUG, I'M A *FAN!*

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS *SMALL TALK,* SEE?

JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW, AND SPILL IT *FAST!*

I DISLIKE VIOLENCE, BUT IF I DON'T GET ANSWERS THEN YOU'LL LEAVE ME *NO CHOICE!*

PRETTY PLEASE WITH *SUGAR* ON IT?

OKAY, OKAY!

I DON'T PERSONALLY HAVE *ANY IDEA* WHO MURDERED JONNI DC...

...BUT THERE'S A TRAIL OF *HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY* THAT STARTS RIGHT OVER THERE BY THE SWIMMING POOL!

IS THAT...*YANKEE POODLE* FROM "CAPTAIN CARROT AND THE ZOO CREW"?

THE *SAME.*

FIND OUT HOW SHE MIRACULOUSLY KICKED A *FIFTY-DOLLAR-A-DAY MILKBONE HABIT...*

...AND I BELIEVE YOU'LL BE WELL ON THE WAY TO SOLVING YOUR *CRIME!*

THE NEXT DAY.

THAT YANKEE POODLE...WHAT A *BITCH!*

NO JUSTICE FOR IONNI DC!

SHE SEEMED ALL SCARED, BUT SHE MUST'VE TOLD ME TO "F.U.", LIKE, *FIVE TIMES!*

I SURE DO HAVE *EGG* ON MY FACE!

F.U., EGG!

EGG FU.

THREE BREAKFASTS LATER, I *FINALLY* FIGURED OUT YANKEE POODLE'S CLUE.

I SAID... I'M "*HARD-BOILED*" DETECTIVE!

IT'S A "*YOKE*"!

JUST GO SEE *ACE THE BATHOUND*, LIKE I TOLD YOU!

I'LL "*SCRAMBLE*" RIGHT OVER THERE!

WOOF WOOF!

WOOF WOOF!

WOOF WOOF WOOF!

WHY, THANKS, I'D *LOVE* A STRAWBERRY DAIQUIRI!

ACE

AFTER OUR THIRD ROUND, ACE GOT *DRUNK* ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHERE I HAD TO GO NEXT.

SPTXL BLPP GLAAH!**

GBLDY BRXL DRLK?*

*TRANSLATED FROM BABY JABBER: "WHAT'LL YOU *HAVE*, SAILOR?"

**ALSO TRANSLATED FROM BABY JABBER: "HAIR OF THE DOG THAT *SERVED* ME!"

SUGAR DIRECTED ME TO DEATH ROW.

THANKS FOR THE *INFO*, 'MAZING MAN!

SURE, BUG.

AND THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE THAT *TREACHEROUS VIXEN* WHO RATTED ME OUT, YOU TELL HER...

...AW, TELL HER I'D KILL HER BOYFRIEND SPIKE *ALL OVER AGAIN* FOR A TASTE OF HER SWEET LIPS!

'MAZING MAN TOLD ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF MY OLD FRIEND **THE GLOP**, WHO USED TO TERRORIZE WONDER GIRL BACK IN THE SIXTIES BY EATING ALL OF HER FAVORITE **PHONOGRAPH RECORDS.**

THE DEATH OF VINYL HIT THE GLOP HARD.

POP!

I KNEW THIS WASN'T GOING TO BE PRETTY, BUT IT WAS THE **STINK** THAT NEARLY FLATTENED ME.

HI, GLOP! HOW'RE YOU--

GULP!

--DOING?

BUG!

HEY, DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR OLD *RECORD COLLECTION?*

SAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

IT'S MY *STENCH,* ISN'T IT?

NO, NO! I'M... *BULIMIC!*

UURRPD!

HAD A BIG LUNCH...AND BEEN *PURGING* EVER SINCE!

GIVE ME...A *MINUTE!*

MORE GAGS THAN ANY PREVIOUS AMBUSH BUG STORY!

POP!

BUG?

WHERE'D YOU GO?

SHAMA-LAMA-RING-RING!

SHAMA-LAMA-RING-RING!

UH... HELLO?

GLOP, IT'S AMBUSH BUG! SORRY, I GOT- UH-CALLED AWAY!

IT WAS MY *STENCH,* WASN'T IT?

I...DON'T KNOW WHICH "*STENCH*" YOU'RE REFERRING TO, GLOP!

I RECEIVED A *TELEPATHIC DISTRESS CALL* FROM SUPERMAN, WHO NEEDED MY IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AGAINST AN ATTACKING SWARM OF *SPACE VAMPIRES!*

AW, C'MON, BUG! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING WITH THAT LOAD OF CRA-

*GLOP, I CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE **BANSHEE WAIL** OF THESE SPACE VAMPIRES!*

BUT, LISTEN, 'MAZING MAN TOLD ME THAT YOU MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE *MURDER OF JONNI DC!*

REALLY? *YOU* WERE THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED HER BODY?

TARGET HAS BEEN *IDENTIFIED!*

HE'S NOT WEARING SOCKS! PROCEED WITH THE *COUNTDOWN!*

GLOP, I'M SURE NO ONE CARES WHETHER YOU POLISHED OFF JONNI'S *RECORD COLLECTION* BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVED!

WHAT'S *THAT?*

OMIGOSH!

OMIGOSH, YOU'VE GOT TO BE *KIDDING!*

TINY TIM'S GREATEST HITS?!?

SKABLAM!

NO, GLOP, THAT WAS *NOTHING!*

SUPERMAN USED HIS HEAT VISION TO BLOW UP THE *VAMPIRE MOTHERSHIP!*

NOW, TELL ME MORE ABOUT *JONNI...*

A HAPPENING PLACE.

LIKE, NOW, MAN.

THE LAIDBACK PAD OF THE MOST FAR-OUT HIPSTER WHO EVER JIVED OR GROOVED.

CHECK OUT THE CHAP KNOWN AS GO-GO CHEX!

LAY IT ON ME, WONDER CHICK!

AMBUSH BUG SOMEHOW SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION, AND HE'S MADE CONTACT WITH THE GLOP!

I'M NOT DIGGING YOUR PATTER, WONDER CHICK!

WHO, ME? OH, YEAH. WELL...

...THIS BUG DRIP WAS SUPPOSED TO BE...REAL GONE...

...BUT INSTEAD OF BEING DEADSVILLE, HE'S STILL MAKING THE SCENE...

...AND NOW THE FINK IS SWINGIN' WITH THE GINCHY GLOP, SO IT'S, UHH...

...A BAD TRIP!

YOU'RE GETTING HIP TO THE JIVE, WONDER CHICK!

BUT WHY SO UPTIGHT?

YOU DON'T KNOW AMBUSH BUG, "DADDY-O"!

I'M WARNING YOU, HE'S GOT CRAZY LUCK!

AND HIS FEET ARE SOFT, AND THEY DON'T PERSPIRE TOO MUCH...

I WANT HIM DEAD! DEAD TODAY!

OUT OF SIGHT, WONDER CHICK!

NOW THAT YOU'VE TUNED IN, DROP OUT AND LET ME SEE WHAT GIVES WITH THIS AMBUSH BUG!

IT MAY BE TIME FOR GO-GO TO DO THE TWIST!

JUST US CATS OF LIKE COOLSVILLE

COME JOIN OUR *GROOVY GANG,* WONDER CHICK!

YEAH, WE DIG YOU THE *MOST!*

BUT IF YOU SHOULD *NIX* OUR WAY-OUT WINGDING--

--THEN WE'LL DIG YOU AN *EVER-LOVIN' GRAVE!*

GASP!

I'M TRAPPED ON EARTH SIX, WHERE IT'S ALWAYS THE *SWINGING SIXTIES!!*

READ!

MINOR PROBLEM ON EARTH SIX!

(It's not like it's a big crisis or anything.)

GET *AWAY* FROM ME, YOU STINKIN' SUPER-HIPPIES!

HUH?! IT WAS...JUST A *DREAM!*

*AMBUSH BUG AWOKE FROM THE NIGHTMARE WITH A POUNDING HEART AND AN **UNEASY FEELING**...*

GLOP TOLD ME THAT WHEN JONNI DIED, SHE WAS POINTING TO THE *GO-GO CHECKS* THAT USED TO RUN ACROSS THE TOP OF OLD DC COMIC BOOKS...

HE ONLY NOTICED BECAUSE HE HAD JUST BUMPED INTO A GUY LEAVING THE BUILDING WHOSE *ENTIRE FACE* WAS COVERED WITH GO-GO CHECKS!

WHAT DOES IT ALL *MEAN??*

*THE BUG **RACKED** HIS **BRAIN**, TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF THE STRANGE SITUATION.*

*THEN HE NOTICED SOMETHING HOVERING JUST **OUTSIDE HIS WINDOW**, A RECTANGULAR OBJECT WITH WORDS WRITTEN ON IT...*

WAIT A MINUTE-- WHAT'S THAT *CAPTION* DOING OUT THERE?

IT'S AN *OMNISCIENT NARRATOR!*

NOBODY USES OMNISCIENT NARRATION IN CURRENT COMICS!

AND MY THOUGHT BALLOONS... ARE ALL *WHITE AND FLUFFY* AGAIN!

HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS!

*AMBUSH BUG DRESSED QUICKLY, WHILE HIS MIND **RACED**...*

THEY CAN *SEE* I'M DRESSING QUICKLY!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING OMNISCIENT IF ALL YOU DO IS STATE THE *FREAKING OBVIOUS??*

DADDY WILL BE BACK *SOON*, CHEEKY!

DON'T MOVE UNTIL THEN!

BUT WHEN THE BUG REACHED STREET LEVEL, A FAMILIAR SIGHT STOPPED HIM SHORT!

CAP'S HOBBY HINTS

THAT NEW SHOP...

...IT'S FROM THE HENRY BOLTINOFF CARTOON THAT APPEARED IN DC COMICS BACK IN THE SIXTIES!

CAP, I CAN'T LOCATE THE BUTTON TO REINTEGRATE MY LITTLE BROTHER!

From a suggestion sent in by: Chester Straman Age 43 Hospital for the Criminally Insane Phoenix, AZ Thanks, Chet!

AMBUSH BUG, YOU MUST ANSWER FOR THE MURDER OF SUE DIBNY!

WHAT--!? SOMEONE KILLED SUE??

IT WAS JEAN LORING, THE ATOM'S EX-WIFE, AFTER YOU FIRST GOADED HER INTO A BLIND RAGE!

AND THEN YOU MADE THAT "FLEA IN HER EAR" REMARK!

LOOK, I CAN'T BE BLAMED FOR EVERY DC UNIVERSE CATFIGHT!

JEAN SHRANK HERSELF TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE, CLIMBED INTO JEAN'S EAR...

...AND THEN GREW LARGE ENOUGH TO GIVE HER A BRAIN HEMORRHAGE!

KRUNCH!

URGH!

I CAN IMAGINE WHAT THAT FELT LIKE!

BUT WHAT'S IT TO *YOU*, BATGIRL??

ACK!!

SUE DIBNY WAS MY *BIRTH MOTHER!*

SHE HAD ME WHEN SHE WAS ONLY *SIXTEEN*, SO SHE GAVE ME UP FOR ADOPTION!

WHEN I FIND MY REAL FATHER, THE PHANTOM STRANGER, I'M GOING TO KICK *HIS* BUTT, TOO!

THAT CREEP TRAVELS THE WORLD INCOGNITO, LEAVING ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN WHEREVER HE GOES!

YOU MEN ARE *ALL ALIKE!*

WOOF!

THIS IS SUCH A *SHOCK!*

SUE'S DEAD...AND SHE HAD AN *OUT-OF-WEDLOCK* CHILD WITH THE PHANTOM STRANGER!

WAIT UNTIL I TELL *JEAN!*

HUH--?

DING-DONG!

DID ANYBODY ELSE...JUST HEAR A *BELL?*

FWUMP

EVERY TIME A BELL RINGS, AN ANGEL GETS ITS *WINGS!*

HIT IT, STU.

DING-DONG!

AVON CALLING!

KILLER SOCKS!

THIS MUST BE THE WORK OF MY OLD NEMESIS ARGH!YLE!

I SURE DO MISS HIS SNUG, WARM FIT!

PSSSST

HEY, BUDDY, CAN YOU SPARE A MINUTE?

WOW, YOU'RE THE JACK KIRBY SANDMAN!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING BACK HERE IN THE DC UNIVERSE?

I DON'T KNOW...

...BUT I'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF THE POWERS-THAT-BE AT DC COMICS FIND ME HERE!

HUMAN BEINGS CAN'T HURT US!

WE'RE COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS-- WE'LL STILL BE HERE LONG AFTER THEY'RE DEAD AND COLD!

SHUTUP!

IF ANYONE ASKS WHETHER YOU SAW ME, THIS IS WHAT I LOOKED LIKE!

GOT IT?

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

YA GOT ME, CHIEF!

HEY, HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?

TELEPORTING HIMSELF TO THE TOP OF A **NEARBY PEAK**, AMBUSH BUG IS SURPRISED TO DISCOVER...

WOW, I'M ***ABOVE*** THE LAYER OF GO-GO CHECKS!

POP!

SOMEHOW, THE VILLAIN BEHIND THIS PLOT HAS SEALED OFF THE ***ENTIRE CITY*** DOWN IN THE VALLEY BELOW...

...WHICH MEANS THAT I'M FACING A FOE WITH ACCESS TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY BEYOND ***ANYTHING KNOWN TO MAN!***

OR ELSE SOMEONE WHO'S ***REALLY BIG*** ON PUP TENTS!

FWIPP!

AS BEN FRANKLIN ONCE WROTE: "THERE'S MANY A SLIP TWIXT CUP AND LIP!"

O.N., YOU JUST GAVE ME A ***GREAT IDEA!***

THWOOOP

SET ME UP WITH A STRAWBERRY DAIQUIRI AND A ***MILKBONE CHASER!***

AND KEEP 'EM ***COMING!***

POP!

THREE HOURS AGO.

TIME FOR GO-GO TO *SPLIT* THIS SCENE, AND HOW!

WHAT A *GAS!*

THIS SOUPED-UP JALOPY WILL SWING YOURS TRULY TO THE STARS...

...AS IN *FAR-OUT OUTER SPACE,* NATCH!

SPACE CABBY.

HE'LL TAKE YOU ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE YOU WANT TO GO, EXCEPT HARLEM.

TAXI

YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN WHO'S WAITING FOR A *CAB!*

WHERE CAN I *TAKE* YOU?

OUT OF THIS WORLD, WONDER CHICK!

AND DON'T MAKE WITH THE BRAKE TILL WE'RE WAY PAST *GONESVILLE!*

POOOM!

PHANTOM STRANGER BASTARD CHILD #273

NOW.

I GREW *ACCUSTOMED* TO HIS FACE...

IT KINDA MADE THE DAY *BEGIN...*

NEXT THURSDAY.

SIGH!

STEPHANIE BROWN L'IL DICKENS POWER TOOL PLAYKIT

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR NEW TOY, CHEEKY?

DADDY WILL BE OVER TO HELP YOU IN A MINUTE...

WHAT CAN I SAY, JONNI? LIFE GOES ON!

SORRY I LET YOU DOWN, OLD FRIEND.

ACTUALLY, AMBUSH BUG DID **FAR BETTER** THAN I EVER EXPECTED!

I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR THAT **INCOMPETENT, OVERWORKED CORONER!**

ACCHOO!

OH, GREAT! NOW I'M CATCHING A COLD! WHAT **NEXT??**

JONNI DC

PLOTTED & PENCILLED BY
WONDER CHICK
(KEITH GIFFEN)
DIALOGUED BY
WONDER CHICK
(ROBERT LOREN FLEMING)
INKED BY
WONDER CHICK
LETTERED BY
WONDER CHICK
(PAT BROSSEAU)
COLORED BY
WONDER CHICK
(GUY MAJOR)
EDITED BY
WONDER CHICK
(JANN JONES)
ASSISTED EDITED BY
WONDER CHICK
(STEPHANIE BUSCEMA)

NEXT ISSUE:

AMBUSH BUG IS THE BLUE BEETLE'S BIGGEST FAN! BUT WHEN TED KORD'S VERY LIFE IS THREATENED, WILL THE BUG AGREE TO **TAKE A BULLET** FOR HIS HERO?